

The Visitor

Monthly Newsletter

September 2017

A Sustainable Path Into The Future

A majority of our congregation voted to explore the feasibility of selling all or part of the church property on March 19th of this year. After consulting with architects, appraisers, building consultants, and evaluators, the investigating Transition Team has determined that either option 1 (sell the entire church property) or option 2 (sell the north and central buildings, but retain the "newest" south wing) are realistic possibilities. It will be time to decide where the spirit is leading us by a congregational meeting and vote on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at Coffee Hour in the Lounge, immediately following the 11:00 service.

Cont. page 1. Between now the then there have been and will be opportunities for sharing our dreams for the future of our congregation at the 9:30 Sunday Forum time on August 27th, September 3rd and 10th. Some of this visioning began at the August 5th workshop and has continued at the August 13th and 20th forums. You can also check out copies of the lengthy reports from outside experts, available in the Church Office. Contact a member of the Transition Team (Carl Johnson, Marsha Tolon, Lanny Shuman, Laura Robinson, Tim Keller) for more details, or attend one of the sessions noted above.

According to our Bylaws, a vote of this type requires a two thirds majority of participating members to support one of the options to move forward. Voting will be done in person on September 10th, but if a member is unavailable, proxy voting is allowed. Forms for a proxy vote have been mailed to members and should be returned to the Church Office (4731 15th AVE NE, Seattle, WA 98105) no later than September 8, 2017. Proxy vote forms can also be requested from UCC Office Administrator, Leah Francis, by calling 206-522-0169 weekdays 9:30am – 3:30 pm.

Greetings from Luke!

Summer has been a full season here at UCC. I have been happy to see the many ways our space has blessed our community.

The NW Boy Choir, which provides young people an opportunity for music education, had a concert in the sanctuary in June. We hosted a community forum event focused on youth homelessness with **ROOTS Young Adult Shelter**. We were again home to **Bike and Build** as they promoted affordable housing along their service route.



Looking ahead to the fall, the **Community Alliance for Global Justice** is holding their annual fundraising dinner here in October to “educate and mobilize to strengthen local economies everywhere.” We are again hosting the **Social Justice Film Festival** as they hold their opening night here in November featuring, “documentaries and narrative films broadly related to social justice, with a special focus on prisoner justice in the US.” **Rain City Symphony** will be having their first concert of the season in November as well. Rain City provides space for amateur musicians to practice and show their skills while also bringing symphony experiences to anyone interested for little or no charge.

I have been told by many people - from the small AA groups to the large concerts teams- that they are thankful that we are able to offer space at a reasonable price. Regardless of what our space looks like in the future, this part of our mission has been a blessing to our community. So thank you! To learn more about our tenants and building matters, don't hesitate to reach out to me. I am always happy to chat!



Luke Sumner, Building Coordinator



11AM WORSHIP

September 3
JOURNEYING WITH JESUS
Matthew 4:17-25
Acts 9:1-23
Rev. Tom McCormick

Sept 10
UN - PAYABLE DEBT
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Rev. Adam Harmon

September 17
A STORY OF CREATION
Storyteller Millie Magner
Genesis 1:1-31
Rev. Adam Harmon

September 24
A STORY OF ABUNDANCE
Storyteller Debbie Shuman
Matthew 14:13-21
Rev. Adam Harmon



EVENTS AT UCC

September 3

Transition Team Conversation//9:30am
Elder's Meeting//12:30pm

September 8

Transition Team Meeting//1:30pm

September 10

Transition Team Wrap-up//9:30am
Congregational Meeting & Vote//12:30pm
Eugene Collias Memorial//1:00pm

September 13

Worship Mission Team Meeting//11:00am
Facilities Meeting//4:00pm

September 14

September NW Clergy Meeting//10:30am

September 15

Transition Team Meeting//1:30pm

September 19

Service and Justice Team Meeting//10:30am
Deadline to submit for October Visitor

September 22

Transition Team Meeting//1:30pm

September 25

Council Meeting//7:00pm

September 27

Facilities Meeting//4:00pm

September 29

Transition Team Meeting//1:30pm

REPORT FROM GWINWOOD



“We are fortunate to have Gwinwood, along with the people who care for it. We are also fortunate to have campers who teach us to keep growing.”



A week at summer camp is about more than hot dogs and s'mores. Being a kid isn't easy in the best of times, and these aren't the best of times...

So when I mentioned to friends that I was thinking about serving as a camp counselor at Gwinwood, I was surprised and moved by the remembered camp pleasures and traumas people had. John, my fellow counselor, said he loves to show up early to see his cabin transformed from mere rooms, to a mob of boys, to a community, back to rooms.

It was a week to watch children transform. I met kids in all stages of noisy, quiet, neat, and slovenly put our cabin into good enough shape to win the coveted "Golden Plunger" award for best cabin. I saw a difficult boy turn out beautiful work in the crafts

workshop.

I have a favorite memory. Helping children keep safe and have fun is tough and rewarding. I saw a camper struggle with the swim test and fail emphatically. I saw the same child with a life vest have a fine and giggly time in the lake all the rest of the week.

By camp's end I was flat-out drained, but I'm already thinking of next July. We are fortunate to have Gwinwood, along with the people who care for it. We are also fortunate to have campers who teach us to keep growing.

-Ed Hausken



UPDATE ON U CHRISTIAN IMMIGRANT HOSTING PROJECT

Representing our congregation, the Service & Justice Mission Team continues to work with other local congregations and the Church Council of Greater Seattle to prepare for hosting immigrants on a short or long term basis. Our “guest room” has been cleaned and painted (thanks especially to Lanny Shuman, Carl and Peggy Johnson, Rune Falstich, and Rosemary Blakemore from our church, and volunteers from at least three other congregations!), the carpet cleaned and a few furnishings (bed, table, chairs, microwave, shelves, etc.) added, so it is beginning to look quite welcoming. Also, the installation of a shower in the women’s bathroom (the south end of the basement) has begun. We now are focusing on signage, keys, recruitment and orientation of volunteers, training of our staff and interested congregation members, etc., so we don’t expect we will have any “guests” until at least October. Please let Rosemary or Lanny know if you have an interest in helping in any way with the various volunteer “jobs” we will need to fill: food shopping, transportation, accompaniment, on-site hospitality, health advocacy, etc. We have set up a special “Guest Room Account” into which individuals and congregations can contribute financially. We deeply appreciate your on-going support!

Your Service & Justice Mission Team

Upcoming TEEN FEED

The month of September 2017 has 5 Saturdays, and that means it is time for the U Christian Team to sponsor the Teen Feed dinner on Saturday, September 30th, 5:30-8:00 PM at the ROOTS Shelter kitchen of U Methodist Temple. Our quarterly contribution to these ongoing meals is always highly appreciated by the homeless young people of this community. If you are available to serve and/or contribute food, contact Laura Robinson <gleep801@hotmail.com> to be part of the organizing mailing list. And newcomers are always welcome, too.

SERVICE AND JUSTICE

“Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.” Ta-Nehisi Coates, May 2014



Ta-Nehisi Coates,
Photo: Jork Weisman



University Christian Church along with other congregations of The Disciples of Christ collects an annual Reconciliation Offering, this year, September 24 and October 1. This Special Offering is used to fund our Church's (denomination's) mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a history dating from the 1960s of sharing our resources to address the racism of our society and the racism within our own church. We have called this process the Reconciliation Ministry.

While we wish to “reconcile,” there are those who say like D.A. Horton, church planter and author, “reconciliation is not possible because there was never conciliation.” Before we engage in our ministry, we need to understand what is meant by reconciliation or conciliation. According to

Thesaurus.com “conciliation is the action of

bringing peace and harmony” while “reconciliation is the reestablishment of friendly relations.” If there have never been friendly relations. How do we re-establish them?

If we view this from the theology of Paul, we learn reconciliation is described as reconciliation between the people and God. With this interpretation, we can enter into reconciliation because racism is indeed sin, and sin is a separation from God. So, to heal our brokenness in the human family, we must be reconciled with God. In his book, *The Social Significance of Reconciliation in Paul's Theology*, Corneliu Constantineanu takes this further with the assertion that “Paul's understanding of the concept [reconciliation] is more complex . . . to describe reconciliation with God and between human beings forming together an inseparable reality.” Therefore we cannot simply be reconciled with God; it's an all inclusive package. With this offering, we begin the process to be indeed reconciled with God and all of the human family.

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION

The big start-up for Fall Quarter is ready.



*Brochures will be distributed at the first Forum

Coming Soon:

9/10: SUMMER TRANSITION TEAM WRAP-UP prior to the big vote.

9/17: CONFRONTING THE POWER OF HATE, led by Hubert Locke.

9/24: CURRENT ISSUES IN THE FIELD OF BIO-ETHICS, led by Tom McCormick.

Many Thanks!

Thank you for your recent gift of \$550 to Northwest Regional Christian Church. Summer in the northwest region means camp! Thank you for your support of our camping program. May God continue to bless and guide your work as a congregation.

Sincerely,
Rev. Sandra M. Messick
Regional Minister

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace! We are so grateful for your \$100 contribution to Disciples Peace Fellowship. We continue to see young Disciples leaders step forward from our Summer Peace Intern Program. Each year, young adults participate in our camps, and racial/ethnic constituency gatherings, to lead youth in informed, faithful reflection on justice and peace issues.

Grace & Peace,
Mary Jacobs &
Rebecca Littlejohn,
Co-moderators

Thanks be to God!
Your community's gifts this year, in the amount of \$700, have allowed God's work to be done through the power of congregations working together on issues like Affordable Housing, Homelessness, & Immigrant and Refugee Support. Bless you for these small triumphs of justice.

Michael Ramos,
Executive Director

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